

A.B. JACKSON HOUSE
State Trunk Highway 50
Town of Bristol
Kenosha County
Wisconsin

HABS No. WI-301

HABS
WIS,
30- BRIS,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HABS
WIS,
30-BRIS,
1-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
A.B. JACKSON HOUSE

Location: Town of Bristol
T1N, R21E
SW 1/4, Section 4 and
Pt. of NW 1/4, Section 9

Present Owner: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant

Statement of
Significance:

The A.B. Jackson House is significant as a remnant of the early settlement of Jacksonville located in this area and for its association with the life of A.B. Jackson, founder of this small community which is now gone.

This house was identified as being architecturally distinctive in the 1975 Survey of Architecturally Significant Structures conducted by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was built in the Greek Revival Style by pioneer A.B. Jackson c. 1837 and operated as an early inn and tavern (the west wing was razed in the 1940's). The building has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of
Construction: c.1837

Architect: None

Description

Properties located along STH 50 between CTH D and the Des Plaines River in the Town of Bristol presently include eleven residences and several out-buildings associated with each structure. Research conducted to determine the historical significance of the Jackson structure, located on the north side of STH 50, approximately 800 feet east of CTH D, indicated that an early 1840's settlement named for three brothers, Andrew, Northrup and Frisbie Jackson, once flourished along this portion of state trunk highway.

Investigative research conducted at the office of the Registrar of Deeds in Kenosha County confirmed the fact that between 1839 and 1945 Andrew Jackson and his brothers owned land adjacent to STH 50 in both Sections 4 and 9 of the Town of Bristol.

Information obtained from Kenosha County tax records, early plat maps of the area, the Record of Deeds for the Town of Bristol, County histories and other local documents suggests that some of the existing buildings along this portion of STH 50 may have served as residences for the members of the Jackson family and others during the early 1840's when this settlement was established.

Significance

A.B. Jackson -- Tavern/Inn

The Cinko-Kirchner property (SHSW #94) is a 3.31-acre parcel of land which was recently part of a larger farm in the Town of Bristol. Originally purchased by Harvey Durkee in 1839, ownership of this property has been transferred seventeen times during the past 145 years. Present access to this parcel is from STH 50.

The structure which occupies this site is a two-story frame building of Greek Revival design. The State Historical Society of Wisconsin identified this structure as architecturally distinctive in a 1975 survey of southeastern Wisconsin buildings. The structure, which presently serves as a single-family residence, was originally built as a tavern and inn by Andrew B. Jackson during the late 1830's. A western wing was torn off the building in 1942. According to previous owners of the building, the interior has been substantially altered over the years, although the dwelling retains most of its original architectural character. The structure is of average physical condition.

An extensive investigation of local histories and county documents was conducted to obtain information pertaining to the historical significance of the Cinko-Kirchner property. According to a variety of sources, A.B. Jackson and his wife moved from Connecticut to the Town of Bristol in 1837. The property on which the Jacksons chose to settle was located along the Southport to Beloit Military Road, now STH 50. This early roadway developed by the Federal Government as part of a military road system designed to facilitate the transportation of supplies between forts established for frontier defense, also provided the means for farmers to transport agricultural products to market in the Village of Southport. Andrew Jackson's tavern and inn was the first to be built in the Town of Bristol to accommodate the journeying public.

In addition to providing food and lodging, the tavern also functioned as a community center and gathering place for residents of the Town of Bristol. According to the literature, a post office was established at the tavern, and A.B. Jackson was appointed postmaster. Town organizational meetings, and later official Town meetings, were also held in this structure. In addition, the first religious service conducted in the Town of Bristol is documented as having occurred at Jackson's tavern. Subsequent religious services and other prayer meetings were held there until 1842, when the first church was built in the Town. During the early 1850's the Agricultural Society of Kenosha was organized at Jackson's tavern, and Andrew Jackson hosted the first and third Agricultural Society Fairs on his property in 1850 and 1852.

In addition to providing much impetus to the development of the Town of Bristol, A.B. Jackson was politically active in both the County and State during the mid-1840's and early 1850's. Jackson was recognized leader of the Democratic, and later Republican parties. During the 1846 Territorial Legislature, Jackson represented Racine County, and was also a member of the Constitutional Convention from Racine County in 1847.

At a special election held June 18, 1853, Jackson was elected state senator.

Although it has not been determined exactly how long the Jackson building operated as a tavern and inn, the literature suggests that this occurred between 1837 and the mid-1850's. A.B. Jackson sold the property to Mr. Salmon Upson in 1859, shortly before he moved to Menasha, Wisconsin where he served as Registrar in the Land Office for several years.

In the autumn of 1868 Jackson left Wisconsin and moved to Evanston, Illinois where he had developed large land interests. Andrew Jackson died at his home in the neighboring suburb of Rogers Park in March 1878, at the age of 64.

Sources of Information

Site visits

Discussion with Wisconsin State Historical Society and Kenosha County Historical Society

Conversations with Mrs. Ernst Kirchner, 1940's owner of the potentially historic property

Research of secondary sources including tax records and the following:

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Sholes, C. Latham and M. Frank, eds. Southport Telegraph. January 19, 1849.

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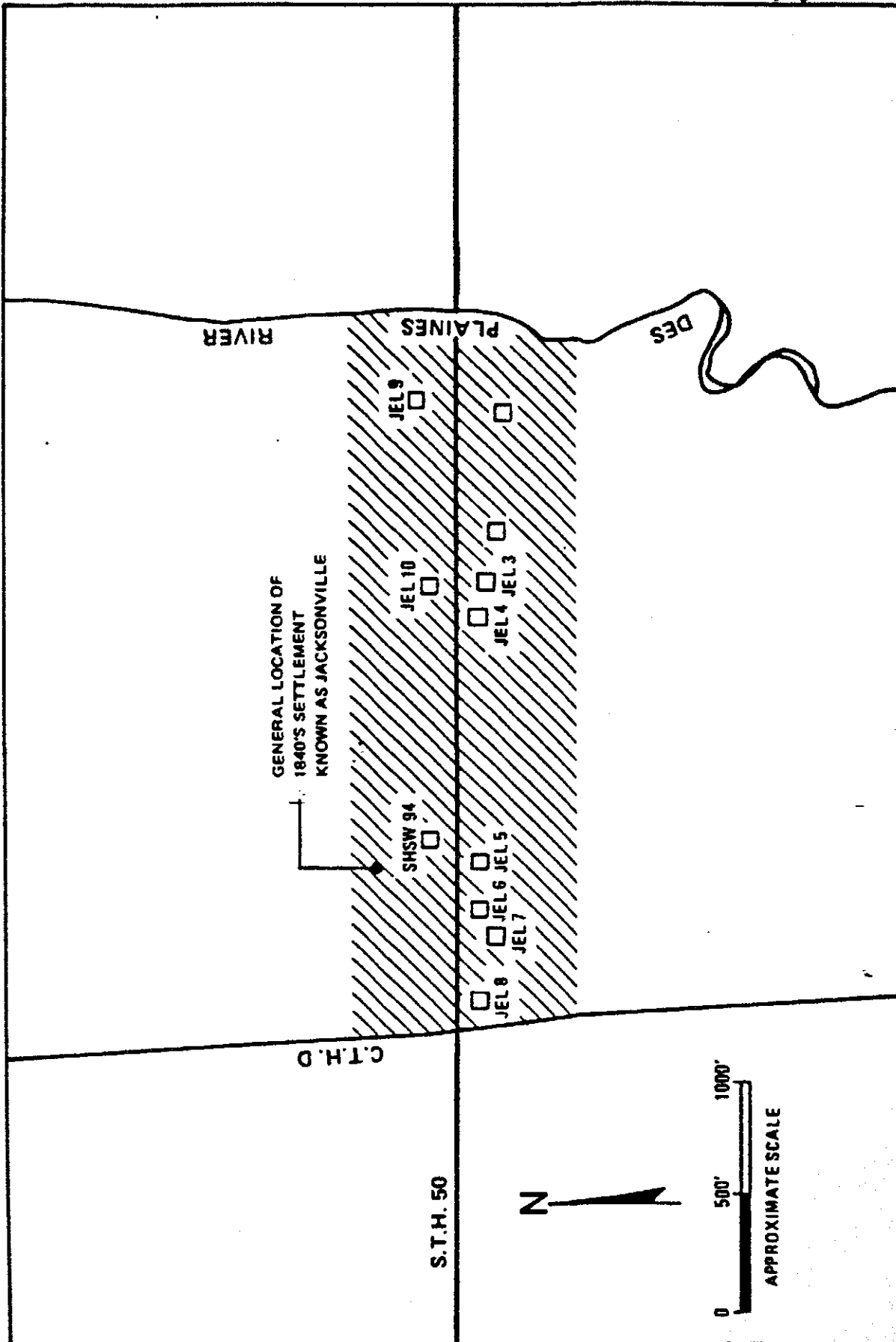
Taylor, Mary Jackson. "Reminiscence." March, 1948. Collections of the Kenosha Historical Society.

Town of Bristol Tax Roles, 1860.

Trenary, Otis, "Souvenir: Kenosha County Court House and Bits and Pieces of Yesterday," Foundations of Today. 1925.

Wisconsin Necrology. "Short Sketch of Andrew B. Jackson of Menasha, Wisconsin." Volume I.

Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1975. "Survey of Architecturally Significant Structures."



NOTE: SEE FIGURE B3 FOR PHOTOS

JACKSONVILLE AREA

IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVES EIS - S.T.H. 50
KENOSHA AND WALWORTH COUNTIES WIS.